

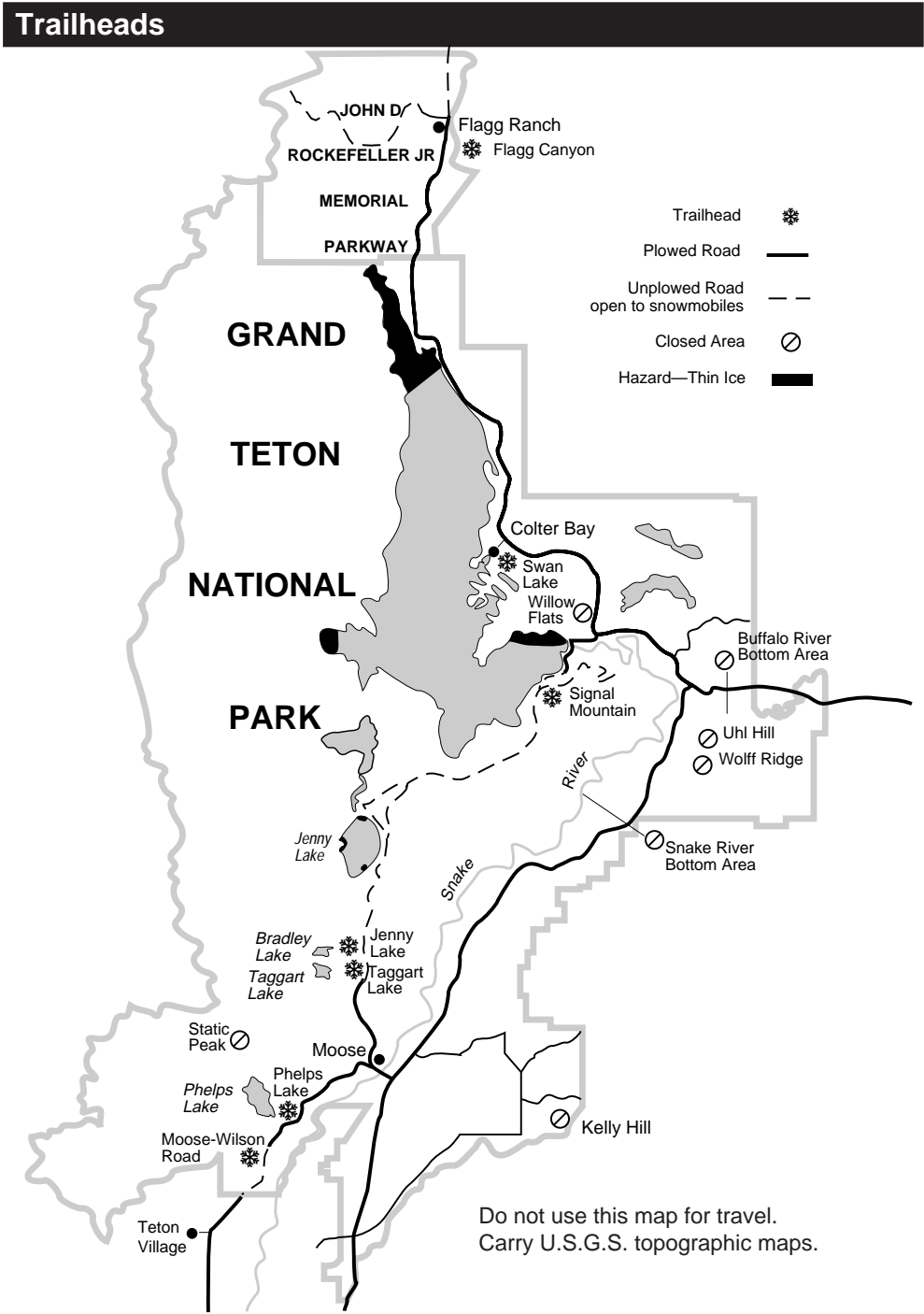
Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing



"This was a joyous day, a buoyant landscape. We felt it as we rode our skis through powder snow down gentle slopes. It was suggested by the dainty patterns of jack

rabbit tracks we saw. It was reflected in the friendly chatter, the expression of our spirits, lifted by the dazzling beauty all about us."

Olaus Murie, *Wapiti Wilderness*



Winter Safety

In an Emergency
Call 911 or 739-3301 (Park Dispatch).

For Your Safety

- Be cautious about skiing on frozen lakes. Thin ice, overflow slush and holes present hazards throughout the winter.
- Wind makes you colder. Take the chill factor into consideration and dress accordingly. Carry extra clothing.
- Know your limitations.
- Tell someone where you will be and when you expect to return.
- Prepare your car for winter travel with shovel, chains, a tow rope and a sleeping bag or blanket.

Hypothermia
Hypothermia is caused by exposure to cold and is aggravated by wind, exhaustion and being wet. Watch for the warning signs of hypothermia: uncontrollable shivering, incoherent speech, lethargy and apparent exhaustion. Help the victim immediately. For mild cases, give the victim warm, non-alcoholic drinks and dry clothes. For serious cases, keep the victim warm, dry and awake. Put the victim, unclothed, in a sleeping bag with another person, also unclothed, and give warm drinks.

Avalanche Hazard
Steep slopes are subject to avalanches, depending on wind loading and the stability of the snowpack. All backcountry travelers should use good route selection and avoid known avalanche paths, steep canyons and gullies. Check at the Moose Visitor Center (8 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) for current avalanche conditions, or call 733-2664 for the 24-hour Bridger-Teton National Forest backcountry avalanche report and weather forecast .

Winter Checklist

Do you have the following?

- o Water
- o High energy snack food
- o Layered clothing (wool or synthetics—no cotton)
- o Hat and mittens or gloves
- o Sunscreen and sunglasses
- o Map and compass
- o Extra clothing (gloves, socks, sweater)
- o Extra food

- o Extra ski tip and pole basket
- o Flashlight/headlamp
- o Watch (be aware of how long your trip will take and allow enough time to return before dark)
- o Fire starting materials
- o Whistle
- o Additional waxes and scraper
- o Knife, tools or tape for repairs
- o Mylar space blanket

Closed Areas

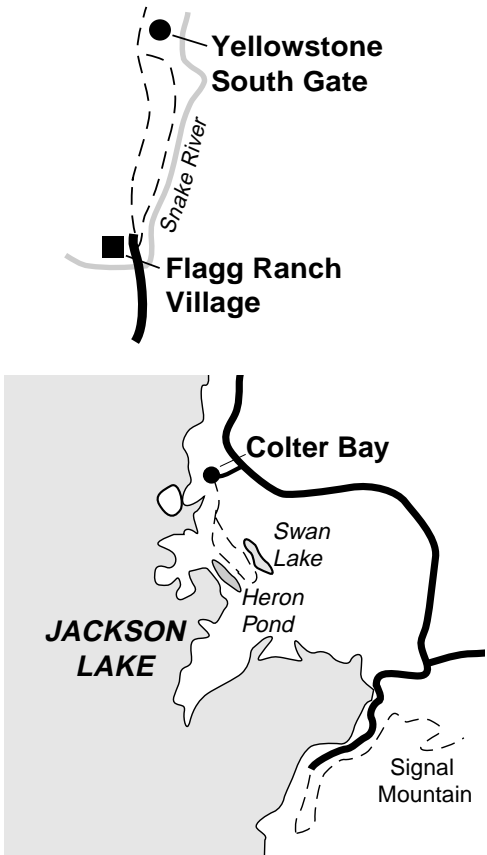
Areas closed to all oversnow travel to protect wildlife

- o Snake River bottom from Moose north to Moran Junction
- o Buffalo Fork of the Snake River bottom in the park
- o Willow Flats, Kelly Hill, Uhl Hill and Wolff Ridge

Winter places enormous stress on wildlife. Do not add to the stress by disturbing wildlife.

Orange flagging, orange metal tags or orange blazes on trees mark most trails. Unplowed roads are not flagged. Trails are not groomed, but are usually well packed except when new snow has obliterated all signs of travel. After new snow, follow trail markers. As you ski or snowshoe, look around to familiarize yourself with the surroundings for the return trip.

Northern Trails



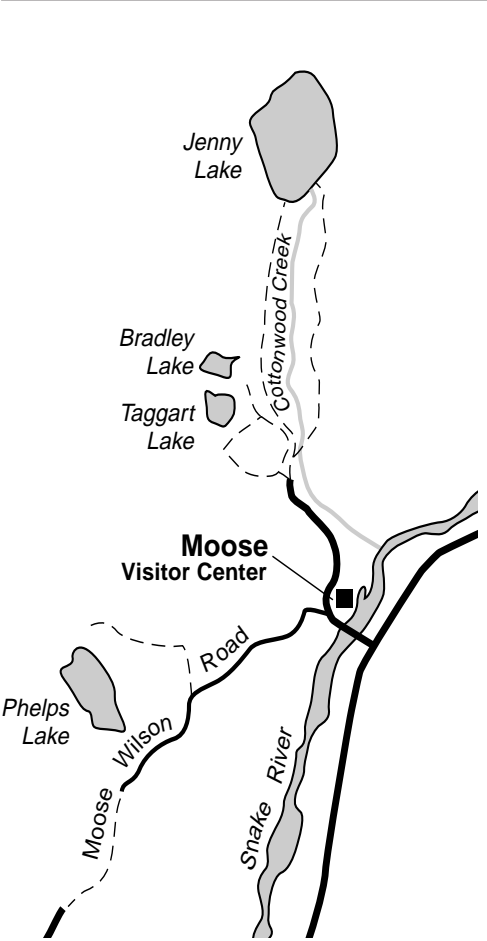
Flagg Canyon
Difficult. Roundtrip: 6 miles. Begin directly across from Flagg Ranch in the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway. Ski northward to the boundary of Yellowstone National Park, then follow the unplowed road to the South Gate of Yellowstone (be alert for snowmobiles). The trail follows the edge of the scenic Snake River, first along riverside meadows then along a canyon walled with volcanic rock. The terrain is gently rolling with a few short steep sections that are easily avoided. **Use caution and avoid cornices where the trail follows the edge of the cliff above the Snake River.** Return via the same trail or the unplowed road to Flagg Ranch. For information on ski trails in southern Yellowstone National Park, check at the South Gate Ranger Station.

Swan Lake or Heron Pond. Ski in either direction on the gently sloping loop trail to return to this junction. The first part of the trail provides views of Jackson Lake and the northern Teton peaks. The trail to the ponds leads through forests of lodgepole pine and other conifers. View the jagged Teton Range and Jackson Lake from the edge of Heron Pond. Beyond Heron Pond, unflagged trails lead to Hermitage Point; this loop adds 5.8 miles to the trip.

Swan Lake-Heron Pond Loop
Easy. Roundtrip: 3 miles. Park near the Colter Bay Visitor Center and ski south to the trailhead. The trail follows an old road for the first 1/2 mile then forks to either

Signal Mountain
Moderate. Roundtrip: 10 miles. Park at the end of the road near Signal Mountain Lodge. Ski the unplowed road (be alert for snowmobiles) southward for approximately 1 mile until you reach the unplowed road that goes eastward (left) to the summit of Signal Mountain. The Signal Mountain Summit Road winds gradually uphill through conifer forests. The summit affords panoramic views of Jackson Hole and the Teton Range. The return trip is all downhill.

Southern Trails



Jenny Lake Trail
Easy. Roundtrip: 9 miles. Begin at the Taggart Lake parking area at the end of the plowed road. Follow the unplowed road 1/4-mile to Cottonwood Creek (be alert for snowmobiles), then ski north along the creek. The trail follows the west side of the creek and crosses several large meadows, then gently climbs a low ridge of glacial moraine and ends at an overlook of Jenny Lake. The trail skirts the base of the Teton Range and on clear days provides close views of the snow-draped peaks. The terrain is mostly level and is excellent for beginners. Skiing on Cottonwood Creek is not recommended. Return via the same trail. Another option is to follow the unplowed road (not flagged) to the east side of Jenny Lake (be alert for snowmobiles). To reach the flagged ski trail from the unplowed road, cross the bridge over Cottonwood Creek and head west along the edge of Jenny Lake.

Lake nestled at the foot of the Tetons. If you return the way you came, you will encounter a steep, treelined section that is at times icy and treacherous, requiring downhill skiing ability. Another option from Taggart Lake is to turn south, cross the bridge over the lake outlet, and follow the trail that climbs the moraine. Then ski down the steep open slope and follow the trail to the east to return to the parking area.

Taggart Lake-Beaver Creek Loop
Difficult. Taggart Lake and return – roundtrip: 3 miles. Taggart Lake/Beaver Creek Loop – roundtrip: 4 miles. This loop through a forest that burned in 1985 has steep sections. Park at the Taggart Lake parking area and ski directly toward the mountains. Turn north (right) and follow the trail as it climbs over the moraine (ridge of glacial debris). The trail forks about 1 mile in. One direction (right) climbs 1 mile for a view down to Taggart Lake. The other direction (left) takes you directly to Taggart

Phelps Lake Overlook
Moderate. Roundtrip: 5 miles. Drive from Moose south on the Moose-Wilson road for 3.1 miles to a small parking area on the right. The trail follows a narrow unplowed road through a forest of mixed conifers for the first 1.7 miles, making a gradual ascent to the Death Canyon trailhead. Then the trail climbs southward through a lodgepole pine forest and over an open slope to reach the overlook of Phelps Lake framed by towering Douglas firs. Do not continue beyond the overlook because of high avalanche hazard. The return trip is all downhill. When the trail is well packed, skiing can be fast.

Moose-Wilson Road
Easy. Roundtrip: 4 miles. Park at either end of this unplowed portion of road. The trail follows a winding unplowed road (be alert for snowmobiles) and is mostly flat but has enough changes in terrain and scenery to make it interesting. This trail through conifer and aspen forest is a good choice for beginners.

Regulations

- Pets are not allowed in the backcountry. Dogs on a leash or in harness pulling a dog sled or skier may travel on unplowed portions of roads open to snowmobiles and on the frozen surface of Jackson Lake.
- For safety reasons, skiers and snowshoers are not allowed to use the Continental Divide Snowmobile Trail.
- Overnight ski tourers, ski mountaineers and snowshoers must register at park

- headquarters in Moose and obtain a free permit.
- Several areas in the park are closed to all oversnow use. Check the front of this guide for a listing of closed areas.
 - Wildlife harassment is prohibited. Winter places great stress upon wildlife. Never add stress by approaching closely. Retrace your steps or detour to avoid disturbing an animal.

Reminder

- For the safety and enjoyment of all**
- Do not walk on ski trails. If a section of trail is too steep for you to ski down safely, leave your skis on and side-step down or detour around the steep section.
 - Yield to faster skiers and those skiing downhill.
 - Step out of the track when taking a break.